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the end of each article. This has long been the practice of French writers. Its adoption in a work like this gives an increased value which we are all quite ready to appreciate. Furthermore, we must refer to the generally impartial historical outlines which are prefixed to the separate memoirs. Even a busy reader can see what has been done before, and what the upshot of each paper is.

ZOÖLOGY.

ARE POTATO BEETLES POISONOUS? — Although I have made no investigations regarding the poisonous nature of the Colorado potato bug, and am prejudiced neither *pro* nor *con*, the experiments of Messrs. Grote and Keyser as stated in the April NATURALIST do not seem conclusive to me. I should not consider the innoxious nature of the *Doryphora* proven. Since heat changes many organic substances, it is not impossible that the "liquid" of their experiments may differ entirely from the juices of the living beetle. Their hypodermic injections would seem to prove the idea (if I understand their account correctly) that the beetles do possess some toxical properties. The heart of a frog separated from the body often beats for a longer period than that recorded in their article. Another possible source of error lies in the animal employed in their investigations. All animals are not equally susceptible to the action of poisons. Man is more so than the lower vertebrates, and they even differ among themselves in this respect. Thus it may be that the beetles have qualities injurious to man, while they have no effect on frogs and toads.

In the above remarks I have not endeavored to prove the poisonous qualities of the beetles, but to express my reasons for denying the cogency of the reasoning employed in the article referred to, and to turn the attention of other investigators to the subject. — J. S. KINGSLEY.

THE LABRADOR DUCK. — H. E. Dresser, Esq., the well-known ornithologist, author of the Birds of Europe, is desirous of obtaining information respecting this bird (*Camptolæmus Labradorius*), such as its geographical distribution (past and present), anything tending to elucidate its habits, and, in particular, a list of the specimens known to be preserved in United States collections. In this last matter, will the custodians of collections in which the bird is represented kindly interest themselves? Mr. Dresser furthermore authorizes me to offer £40 (\$200, gold), for a pair, male and female, in good order. Communications may be addressed to him, No. 6 Tenterden Street, Hanover Square, London, W., or to the undersigned. — ELLIOTT COUES, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

THE COTTON WORM. — Mr. Grote, in the last Alabama Geological Report, states his belief that the cotton worm is an imported insect and not indigenous to the Southern States. In Alabama it does not appear on the plants before June or July.